



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-0689

April 18, 2008

To Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform you there is a scheduled commercial gillnet white sturgeon fishery May 1 – 7, 2008 in Willapa Bay with May 8 – 15 still tentative. The fishery will begin 12:01 AM May 1 and continue through 11:59 May 7. Depending on the results of the May 1 – 7 opening, the fishery has the potential to be extended another week from May 8 – 15, 2008. We will notify you before May 8th.

The minimum mesh size allowed during this May fishery is 9-inches. Recovery boxes required and there is no limit on soak-time. The fishery will be in Areas 2G (easterly of a line from Ledbetter Point to Toke Point), 2H, 2J and 2M. Notice of Intent is **required** to participate in this fishery by 10 AM, April 29th (using the Quick Reporting phone, fax or email) for the May 1 – 7th opening and 10 am, May 7th for the 8th – 15th if extended. All fishers **MUST** carry an on-board observer if requested by WDFW.

Retention of all other species especially chinook and green sturgeon is prohibited. The NOAA Fisheries listed the southern population of green sturgeon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act effective July 6, 2006. Most of the green sturgeon taken in Washington fisheries are from the southern population. Therefore, **the retention of green sturgeon is prohibited to protect this federally listed stock.**

Report all encounters of chinook and green sturgeon (using the Quick Report phone, fax or email). Include your name, date encountered and number of species encountered. If any information from spaghetti tags on green or white sturgeon can be retrieved please do so. If tags from white sturgeon can be removed before sale please mail them to the address at the top of the page. **DO NOT REMOVE** tags from green sturgeon.

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” of catches is **required** for all salmon and sturgeon landed, this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The quick reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.**

Reports can be made by:

- fax (360) 664-0689
- telephone 1-866-791-1280

- email to harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov

The quick reporting summary must include: the dealer's name, purchasing location, date of purchase, list of fish ticket numbers used on the purchasing date (including alpha letter preceding the fish ticket number), commercial fishing gear type, catch area, species, number and total weight of fish. Please note that a copy of the "Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet" has been included for your convenience or you can go to our website and download a copy at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport_form.xls

These regulations are subject to change based on in-season information. You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-4628.

Atlantic Salmon

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.